

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02314 310400Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8702

S E C R E T SANTIAGO 2314

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E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. PROPPER, SCHERER, CORNICK MET WITH CAPTAIN ARMANDO FERNANDEZ FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF HOURS TODAY WITH NO OTHER CHILEANS PRESENT. FERNANDEZ ADMITTED HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PARAGUAYAN PASSPORTS AND THAT HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY GONE TO THE UNITED STATES ON A CHILEAN PASSPORT (BUT NOT AS "ROMERAL"). HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE LETELIER ASSASSINATION NOR THAT HE HAD EVER CONTACTED CUBANS IN THE UNITED STATES. HE DID, HOWEVER, ADMIT TO RUNNING INTO TOWNLEY AT KENNEDY AIRPORT IN LATE AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER, 1976. PRESENTATION WAS SKILLFUL BUT NOT CONVINCING.

2. TOWNLEY CONTINUED HIS INTERROGATION BEFORE MILITARY AD HOC PROSECUTOR TODAY. REPORTEDLY HE HAS NOW FINISHED BUT IS VERY TIRED. HE HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH PROPPER, ET. AL., PRIOR TO APPEARANCE BEFORE JUDGE GONZALEZ ON CONDITION THAT HIS LOCAL LAWYER BE PRESENT AND THAT HIS US LAWYER HAS NO OBJECTION. THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAD HEARD OF THE LATTER, WHOM PRESUMABLY TOWNLEY IS NOT CONTACTING.

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3. EARLIEST WE NOW HOPE TO SEE TOWNLEY IS MORNING OF MARCH 31. PRESENTATION OF TOWNLEY AND FERNANDEZ BEFORE JUDGE GONZALEZ MIGHT THEN BE THAT AFTERNOON.

4. WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED ORAL SUMMARY OF TOWNLEY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE MILITARY PROSECUTOR.

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